

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /094 W

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R 241424Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1581

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: NATIONAL UNITY FRONT CURRENT EFFORTS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 5829, (B) BEIRUT 6268

1. SUMMARY: NATIONAL UNITY FRONT (NUF) SPOKESMAN MIKAEL DAHER SAYS NUF HAS HAD LITTLE SUCCESS TO DATE IN PROMOTING LEBANESE DIALOGUE. ISLAMIC GROUP FINDS ITSELF IN DILEMMA BETWEEN UNDERTAKING CONTACTS WITH JUNBLATTI NATIONAL MOVEMENT, FOR THE SAKE OF DIALOGUE, AND BEING USED IN THE PROCESS BY JUNBLATT TO STRENGTHEN HIS CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR MOSLEM MASSES. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH AKKAR DEPUTY MIKAEL DAHER AUG 22. DURING DISCUSSION, FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

3. NATIONAL UNITY FRONT (NUF). IN CONTRAST WITH HIS EARLIER ENTHUSIASM FOR ROLE NUF COULD PLAY IN PROMOTING LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOGUE (REFTELS), DAHER SAID NUF HAD BEEN TRYING FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS TO INVOLVE KEY LEBANESE LEADERS OF ALL PERSUASIONS IN SERIOUS DIALOGUE, BUT HAS HAD

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LITTLE SUCCESS. ONLY IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE HAS BEEN

RECENT SALAM-GEMAYEL MEETING, BUT EVEN THAT DID NOT GO BEYOND PLATITUDES. NUF IS TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS BETWEEN GEMAYEL AND ARAFAT, AND BETWEEN GEMAYEL AND JUNBLATT, BUT JUNBLATT IS NOT INTERESTED AT PRESENT TIME, AND ARAFAT IS UNWILLING TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN EFFORTS TO ISOLATE JUNBLATT FROM MODERATE MOSLEM LEADERSHIP.

4. ISLAMIC GROUP. DAHER SAID SALAM WAS NOT PLEASED WITH RECENT EFFORTS BY CHAFIC WAZZAN TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN ISLAMIC GROUP AND JUNBLATT'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT. SALAM, DAHER SAID, IS WILLING TO TALK TO JUNBLATT DIRECTLY, AS INDIVIDUAL, BUT NOT TO RECOGNIZE JUNBLATT AS LEADER OF LEFTIST COALITION, WHICH SALAM (AND DAHER) SEE AS DEVOID OF LEGITIMACY AND EXISTING ONLY BECAUSE OF PALESTINIAN AND FOREIGN FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

5. ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT. DAHER SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE FORMER PRESIDENT CHARLES HELOU WOULD REPRESENT LEBANON. WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT PRESS HAD RECENTLY SPECULATED THAT ELIAS SARKIS MIGHT HEAD LEBANESE DELEGATION (SEE SITREP AUG 20), DAHER SAID IT WOULD NOT BE GOOD IDEA FOR SARKIS TO EXPOSE HIMSELF AT PRESENT TIME, ESPECIALLY SINCE SUMMIT MEETING ITSELF HAD LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. HELOU WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO KARAME.
HUNT

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